

***AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116***  
***U. S. Application No. 09/943,352***

**REMARKS**

Claims 5-8, 13-40 are all the claims pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1-4 and 9-12 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 29-40 are added. Claim 23 is objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.75(c) as being of improper form. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 21, 24, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant submits amended claims 21, 23, and 24 to obviate the Examiner's objection under § 1.75(c) and rejections under § 112, first and second paragraphs.

Claims 1, 3/1, 4/1, 9, 11/9, and 12/9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoi et al. (Jpn. Unexam. Patent Publ'n. No. 1 (1989)-10540) ("Hosoi") in view of Yip et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,039,854A) ("Yip") and Kulpinski et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,778,995A) ("Kulpinski") and Conrad et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,778,994A) ("Conrad"). Claims 2, 3/2, 4/2, 10, 11/10, and 12/10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hosoi in view of Yip and Kulpinski. Claims 5-8, 13-20, 22, and 25-28 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 21 and 24 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant submits amended claims 21, 23, and 24 to obviate the § 112 rejections.

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To place the application in condition for allowance, Applicant has canceled claims 1-4 and 9-12. Applicant has rewritten dependent claims into independent form. Claims which depend from claim 2 and 10 have been added as new claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

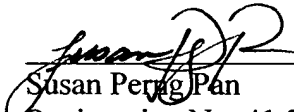
Respectfully submitted,

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WASHINGTON OFFICE

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